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tion Service of the National Research Council, stating that the American Library Association desires to co-operate with the Council in every way possible in the furthering of the purpose of this service. It was known that Dr. Andrews of the Crerar Library was a member of the Council and had been working with its

various bibliographical committees but there was a general impression that no formal offer of co-operation had been made to the Council by the American Library Association as a whole and such action seemed to the group to be desirable.

EUNICE R. OBERLY,
Chairman.

LIBRARIES OF RELIGION AND THEOLOGY ROUND TABLE

The meeting of the A. L. A. Section of Religion and Theology was called to order at the New Ocean House, Swampscott, Mass., at 8:30 p.m., on Friday, June 24, 1921, by Ellma A. Foster, of the Cleveland Public Library, secretary, in the absence of the president, Rev. John F. Lyons, of the McCormick Theological Seminary. Hollis W. Hering, of the Missionary Research Library, was elected chairman for the evening.

The general subject of the meeting was

RELIGIOUS BOOKS IN THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

and Dr. Arthur E. Bostwick, of the St. Louis Public Library, presented the first paper, *THE CHURCH AND THE LIBRARY*. This was an able and enthusiastic setting forth of the need and wisdom of including books on religious subjects in our public libraries. Dr. Bostwick especially emphasized the fact that the library had its special contribution to make to Christian unity by providing statements of all forms of belief and thus promoting mutual understanding.

Azariah S. Root, of Oberlin College Library, spoke on the methods of a library which serves both college and town. Oberlin's theological seminary makes the town as well as the college especially receptive of religious books, and the collection of these books in the seminary building, as well as those in the library proper, is open to everyone. Books are made known by lists, posters, and exhibits, and criticisms are welcomed as a means of broadening the collection. Oberlin acquires all published courses of study for Sunday Schools, both graded and ungraded,

and places with them books on pedagogy and books on the psychology of childhood and adolescence.

The third paper, by Ellma A. Foster, head of the department of philosophy and religion of the Cleveland Public Library, was on *THE NEED OF ADEQUATE REPRESENTATION OF RELIGIOUS THOUGHT IN THE PUBLIC LIBRARY*. She urged the bringing of competent judgment to the selection of religious books, to the end that the library might be truly comprehensive and not deficient in an important realm of human interest.

Dr. Willard I. Shattuck of Boston University spoke on the share which the library can take in religious education. His experience in mission work in Boston, largely among the foreign-born, was drawn upon in his presentation of the need of religious education, and he stated his conviction that the public library should possess books on Sunday School work, daily vacation Bible schools, hand work, child psychology, and other phases of religious education, and should advertise these books among the active workers in this field.

Following the papers, there was much active discussion. Miss Pattee, of Union Theological Seminary, spoke of the bibliographies issued yearly by her library and monthly by the General Theological Library of Boston, as guides to purchasing books. Bernard C. Steiner, Dr. Frank G. Lewis, Miss Hering, and others spoke of various phases of religious book selection and of the need of more adequate consideration of the problem. Frederic G. Melcher,

of the *Publishers' Weekly*, described the methods used for Religious Book Week in March, 1921, and promised a further development of the idea for next year.

The interest displayed by the attendance of one hundred and twenty-five and by the persons taking part in the discussion led to an expression of opinion that next year's session also be devoted to RELIGIOUS BOOKS IN THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The meeting closed with the disposal of business. The minutes of the Colorado Springs meeting were approved, and the following officers were elected: President, Andrew Keogh, Yale University Library; Secretary, Mrs. Mabel E. Colegrove, Newark Public Library.

ELIMA A. FOSTER,

Secretary.

LIBRARY BUILDINGS ROUND TABLE

The Round Table on Library Buildings met on Tuesday, June 21, and was in charge of Willis K. Stetson, librarian, Free Public Library, New Haven, Conn.

Edward L. Tilton, architect, of New York City, spoke in answer to the following questions: 1. Should the plan of a library building provide that practically all the departments for adults should be on the main floor, and in case of the smaller libraries also the administrative offices and workrooms, (a) for reasons of economy in the number of attendants required, (b) for the convenience of the users of the library, (c) increased ease and efficiency of administration resulting from concentration of most of the staff on one floor? 2. Should all structural partitions be omitted when possible, (a) in order to allow an equitable and desirable division of space originally between the different departments and activities, (b) rearrangement of space as might be desirable later, (c) economy in the number and salaries of staff needed? His answer in general was in the affirmative. Partitions are needed when noise must be shut out, and when in the workrooms odors such as come from the use of hot glue, for example, must be excluded. For partitions book cases often serve acceptably. It is a simple matter to put in any partitions whenever and wherever they may be needed. In the matter of heating, no trouble arises in case of large rooms, as, if the windows and walls of the room are heated, the interior must also become heated. As to supervision, aid can be given by use of mirrors, as in

a branch of Elizabeth, N. J., Public Library, the children's room on the ground floor is under observation from the main floor, an area being left open on the main floor and a mirror properly placed. One room at right angles to another could be under observation by means of a mirror in the corner.

Children's rooms may be placed in the basement, although the danger of dampness must be guarded against.

The book stack should be placed in the basement, at the same time having as many books as possible on open shelves on the main floor.

Put books in the dark and the people in the light. The reverse has been true as a rule. The T-shaped plan in which the stack room is in the stem of the T gives the best lighting to the books. It is usually darker at the delivery desk. A rectangular building is better and cheaper to build than the T-shaped. There is a limit in his opinion to the economy in salaries by having one floor only.

Mr. Tilton also answered affirmatively the following question: Can a competent library adviser and a competent architect working freely together produce at a reasonable cost a building eminently satisfactory both from the standpoint of utility and beauty? He remarked that the qualifying adjectives should be regarded.

In answer as to the tendency to put glass partitions on the top of bookcases reaching to the ceiling, he replied that it was about "fifty-fifty." Arthur L. Bailey, of Wilmington Institute Library, Wilmington,